

Social Concerns Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2023

Members in Attendance: Meghan Bramlage, Paul Carlson, Terri Hannan, Doris Larkins, Patty McClain and Carmen Santee

Send all minutes to Father Ken Halbur(frken@slte.org), Father Ryan Andrew(frryan@slte.org), Annette Bailey(Annette.bailey@slte.org), Mike Gatzke(webmaster@saintluketheevangelist.org), and Meg Schon(meg@schonfamily.com)

USCCB's Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Paul led the committee in an opening prayer and a discussion about the principle of Solidarity using the discussion guide from the USCCB. The new initiative of a sister parish may be a prime opportunity to bring awareness of this principle to the parishioners.

Habitat for Humanity

At our March meeting, we allotted \$3,000 of the Tithe of the Tithe funds to the Catholic Circle of Faith for the Habitat for Humanity plans in Des Moines. Paul shared that St Lukes is providing the volunteers for the building dates of June 7 and August 2nd. He reported that recruitment has been positive although there is still a need for four more workers. Karen Bishop, chair of the Prime Timer's, has committed the group to provide lunch during the project.

Sister Parish Relationship

Paul led a discussion about the next steps needed to form a sister parish relationship with St. Martin De Porres parish located in Zuarungu, Ghana. This parish is administered by Fr Raphael Akurugu, a seminarian classmate of Fr Ryan. According to Fr Ryan, Bishop Joensen, Father Ken, members of the Finance Committee, and the Pastoral Council have approved of this initiative. Our committee therefore decided to begin a Tithe of the Tithe contribution this month but did not set a regular amount of percentage for future donations. Doris will try to find out if the tithe of the tithe percentage will be restored to the pre-COVID amount of 10%. Fr. Raphael reports that the top priorities for the parish are pews for the church and funds to help with the cost of running the school.

Fr Ryan talked to members of the Christ the King parish about their efforts in establishing a sister parish relationship and felt we were taking all of the appropriate steps at this time. When we are in a position to arrange a delegation to visit Fr Raphael at St Martin de Porres he has a contact that is willing to help us get organized. Fr Ryan also mentioned that the bishop of that diocese is scheduled for a different purpose to come to St Luke the Evangelist this summer, there might be a chance to visit with him about this arrangement.

Tithe of the Tithe Long Range Plan

It was decided at the last meeting that a sub-committee would be formed to work on a draft for Tithe of the Tithe funds for all months up to January of 2024. It was hoped that this draft would provide more

structure when we meet to make financial decisions. Reta Althaus, Doris Larkins, Patty McClain, and Jean McPherson volunteered to form the committee. They met twice and created a document that emphasizes special months such as Right to Life month in October and Mental Health month in May. In keeping with the guidelines of our committee, it is also divided into global, national, and local needs. It was emphasized that it is only to be used as a guide. Special thanks to Jean McPherson for typing the document.

Tithe of the Tithe from March and April Tithes

Ghana parish of St. Martin De Porres	\$2000
Chrysalis Connection campaign	\$1000 (promotes mental health for girls 14 to 24)
Sisters Water Project	\$2000
Dorothy's House	\$500
Ankeny Love Lunches	\$458.93

St. Luke's School Mission Plan

Two members of the Faith Committee at St. Luke's School contacted us about correlating our Tithe of the Tithe contributions with charities to which they contribute through their monthly mission project. The school bases their charities on virtues depicted in the lives of saints that they highlight each month. In the last few months, we've discussed this idea and our committee has agreed to work with the school on this project. Recently we informed the school contacts that we would like to meet with them in August and compare our respective plans, and possibly find correlations. At that time, we will be more in a position of deciding if and how we will proceed.

Future Events

Catholic Worker House meals are scheduled for May 27(Memorial Day weekend) and June 24.

St. Luke's has been asked to handle Family Promise on June 18 and July 31. Carmen expressed interest in helping and will reach out to Eva.

Next Meeting

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, July 25.

